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Security Council

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Letter dated 12 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am pleased to forward herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of Singapore in the month of January 2001 (see annex).

The assessment was prepared under the responsibility of the Singapore delegation pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451).

While other members of the Security Council were consulted on its contents, the assessment should not be considered as representing the views of the Council.

I should be grateful if this letter and the attached document could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kishore **Mahbubani**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

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Annex to the letter dated 12 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council

Singapore (January 2001)

Introduction

1. The Security Council witnessed a change in its membership in January 2001 when five elected members — Argentina, Canada, Malaysia, Namibia and the Netherlands — ended their term on the Council and were replaced by five new elected members — Colombia, Ireland, Mauritius, Norway and Singapore. One of the first tasks of the Presidency in January 2001 was to conduct consultations on the appointment of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the 10 existing sanctions committees. This was settled in the first week. Other highlights of the work of the Security Council for the month included the open debate on strengthening cooperation with troop-contributing countries and the renewal of the mandates of four United Nations peacekeeping missions: UNMOP (Prevlaka, Croatia), UNOMIG (Abkhazia, Georgia), UNIFIL (Lebanon) and UNTAET (East Timor).

2. The Security Council also considered issues pursuant to specific stipulations in previous resolutions of the Council and statements of its President. These included the review of the diamonds sanctions against Sierra Leone, the situation in Angola and the interim report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There were a few unanticipated events during the period under review, including the demise of President Laurent-Désiré Kabila and the mounting tensions in the Presevo Valley in southern Serbia, to which the Security Council responded promptly.

3. The Security Council held a total of 17 formal meetings (4254th to 4270th meetings), 15 in public and 2 in private. At eight of those meetings, the Council received substantive briefings and exchanged views on a range of issues. The rest were meetings held in connection with the formal adoption of draft resolutions and statements of the President. The members of the Security Council also met in informal consultations a total of 13 times in January. In connection with the renewal of the mandates of United Nations missions in Prevlaka (Croatia), Georgia, Lebanon and East Timor, the President chaired meetings with troop-contributing countries.

4. The Security Council adopted a total of five resolutions and three presidential statements. Two communiqués were issued by the Council in connection with its private meetings with the Prime Minister of the Transitional National Government of Somalia, Ali Khalif Galaydh, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, Mircea Geoana, in his capacity as Chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The President made 10 statements on behalf of Council members to the media on developments in Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), Sierra Leone and the borders of Guinea with Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Africa

5. The Security Council continued to be seized with developments in Africa. Besides reviewing developments in ongoing situations in Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and the borders of Guinea with Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Council also held meetings to update itself on the progress of the peace-building and peace consolidation efforts in the Central African Republic and Somalia. The meeting on Somalia, which was held in private, was of particular significance, as it was the first time that the Council had met with the Prime Minister of the Transitional National Government of Somalia, which was established as a result of the Arta peace process.

Angola

6. Angola was included in the programme of work pursuant to the request made by the Security Council in its resolution 1294 (2000), wherein the Secretary-

General was requested to provide a report on developments in Angola every three months from the adoption of the resolution. Besides discussing the current political, military and social situation in Angola, based on a briefing given by the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa, Ibrahim Gambari, the Council took a decision to extend the mandate of the monitoring mechanism on Angola sanctions established under resolution 1295 (2000).

7. **Latest developments**. The consideration of the situation in Angola by the Council was conducted in two parts. At the informal consultations held on 12 January, the Under-Secretary-General gave Council members a comprehensive briefing on various aspects of the developments in Angola, including:

(a) The changes taking place in Angola, including the increasing role of civil society in rebuilding the country and the assistance of the United Nations Office in Angola in such rebuilding efforts;

(b) The humanitarian situation in Angola, with particular reference to the situation regarding children;

(c) The proposal by the Secretary-General for a United Nations-sponsored conference on peace, reconciliation, demobilization and development in Angola;

(d) The adoption of the Amnesty Law in November 2000 by the Angolan Parliament and the Government's decision to delay the general elections until 2002.

8. At the request of members of the Council that more time be allocated to discuss the situation in Angola, the President scheduled informal consultations on 17 January. Following the consultations, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of the members of the Council to express the full support of the members for the efforts of the Government of Angola to bring about durable peace in Angola. The President also expressed the members' appreciation for the efforts of the Under-Secretary-General, on behalf of the Secretary-General, to promote the peace process in Angola, and the efforts of Mussagy Jeichande, head of the United Nations Office in Angola, to assist the Angolan people in rebuilding their society, especially in the area of capacity-building in human rights.

9. The President also expressed the concern of the members about the grave humanitarian situation in Angola, although it was recognized that there had recently been some improvement thanks to the combined efforts of the Government of Angola and the international community. The President told the press that Council members had noted that the Government of Angola had postponed the holding of general elections to the second half of 2002. In this regard, the members of the Council expressed their support for the Government of Angola's efforts to ensure that the conditions were conducive for the holding of fair and credible elections as soon as possible. They also encouraged the international community to assist the efforts of the Government of Angola.

10. **Monitoring mechanism**. On 21 December 2000, the Security Council requested the Angola sanctions Committee to consider the final report of the monitoring mechanism established by resolution 1295 (2000) (S/2000/1225). In the meantime, the Security Council was asked to extend the mandate of the monitoring mechanism, which was chaired by Ambassador Juan Larrain of Chile. Following consultations conducted by Ambassador Richard Ryan of Ireland, Chairman of the sanctions Committee, the Council reached an agreement to extend the mandate of the monitoring mechanism for a further three months. This decision was formalized with the adoption of resolution 1336 (2001) at the 4263rd meeting, on 23 January. The Council also requested the mechanism to provide a written addendum to its final report by 19 April 2001.

Burundi

11. At the suggestion of a member of the Security Council, on 23 January, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, gave members of the Council a comprehensive briefing on developments in Burundi, particularly against the backdrop of the meeting held at Libreville on 10 January 2001, the ongoing meeting of the Arusha signatories, and the latest situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Under-Secretary-General also updated members on the economic, humanitarian and social conditions in Burundi, highlighting in particular the health and nutrition situation.

12. The President made a statement to the press on behalf of Council members after the discussion, inter alia stressing the importance of early implementation of the Arusha Agreement, and urging all signatories to take concrete steps to expedite its implementation. The

President also expressed the hope of the members of the Council that recent developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo would not negatively influence the progress made recently in the Burundi peace process, and that the understanding reached between the Government and CNDD-FDD in Libreville would continue to be observed. The President further noted that members of the Council remained deeply concerned at the dire economic, humanitarian and social conditions in Burundi, and urged donors to assist the United Nations and the Government of Burundi to meet the urgent humanitarian and socio-economic needs of the Burundi population and to deliver on the commitments made at the Paris Conference on 11 and 12 December 2000.

Central African Republic

13. Pursuant to a request made by the Security Council in the statement of its President of 10 February 2000 (S/PRST/2000/5), the Secretary-General submitted a report on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office (BONUCA) (S/2001/35). At its 4261st meeting, on 23 January, the Security Council met to discuss the report, which was introduced by the Representative of the Secretary-General and head of BONUCA, Cheikh Tidiane Sy (Senegal). The Minister for the Promotion of Civic Responsibility in charge of Relations with the Parliament of the Central African Republic, Agba Otikpo Mezode, was also invited by the Council to participate in the meeting.

14. In addition to the briefing by the Representative of the Secretary-General, the Council heard briefings by the Acting Deputy Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa of UNDP, Frederick Lyons, and the Vice-President for External Affairs and United Nations Affairs of the World Bank, Mats Karlsson, on the activities and contributions of the two institutions to post-conflict peace-building efforts in the Central African Republic, as well as a statement by the Permanent Observer to the United Nations of the International Organization of la Francophonie, Ridha Bouabid.

15. At its 4262nd meeting held immediately thereafter, the Security Council adopted a statement of its President (S/PRST/2001/2), in which it, inter alia, welcomed the additional progress made in certain areas to restore peace and stability in the Central African Republic, but expressed concern at the recent resurfacing of political and social tensions, which threatened the national reconciliation process, and urged all political actors to contribute to the reduction of the existing tension between the Government and the Opposition; the Council called upon bilateral and multilateral donors to provide full support to the Government of the Central African Republic and welcomed the recent decisions of the World Bank and IMF to release funds; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report by 30 June 2001 on the activities of BONUCA and on progress made in the political, economic and social reforms in the Central African Republic.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

16. The killing of President Laurent-Désiré Kabila and the possible impact on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo formed the focus of the discussion of members of the Security Council. The Council also considered the interim report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo established pursuant to the statement of its President of 2 June 2000 (S/PRST/2000/20).

17. As media reports of President Kabila's killing began to filter out on 16 January, the Security Council sought a briefing by the Secretariat for clarification. At informal consultations held on 17 January, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, briefed the members of the Council. He updated the members of the Council on further developments the next day, 18 January. Pending confirmation of reports of the death of President Kabila, the President informed the press on 17 January that Council members gave their full support to the appeal made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kemal Morjane (Tunisia), for all parties to respect the ceasefire and to refrain from military action. The Council members also urged all parties to continue to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel.

18. The briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General on 18 January was made after an official announcement of the demise of President Kabila was issued by his son and successor, Major General Joseph Kabila. Following the second briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General,

the President informed the press on behalf of the Council members that members of the Council condemned the killing of President Laurent-Désiré Kabila, and emphasized that it was the responsibility of the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to find a permanent solution to the conflict; the Council members also recalled the importance attached to strict respect for the ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and stressed that the international community stood ready to support the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in their efforts to implement the Lusaka Agreement, restore peace and preserve the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

19. **Panel of Experts on the illegal exploitation of resources**. On 22 January, members of the Council heard a presentation by Safiatou Ba-N'Daw (Côte d'Ivoire), chairperson of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After presenting the interim report of the Panel, Mme Ba-N'Daw also raised the Panel's request for a three-month extension of its mandate to mid-June to enable it to complete its work. Although the members of the Council commented critically on the substance of the interim report, they reaffirmed their full support for the work of the Panel. The Council members also agreed that they would defer a decision on the Panel's request for an extension of the mandate pending submission of an action plan at the end of March 2001. As an additional step to support the work of the Panel, the members of the Council requested the President to meet with the Permanent Representatives of the countries named in the interim report of the Panel — Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe — in order to draw the attention of their Governments to the Council's concerns about the matter and to urge them to give the Panel full cooperation.

20. After consultations on the interim report, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of the members of the Security Council, in which Council members relayed their disappointment with the responses so far of several Governments to the enquiries made by the Panel and called upon all Governments to cooperate fully with the Panel in carrying out its investigations; and urged the Panel to provide a substantive and comprehensive final report based on information provided by governmental sources and rebel groups, as well as independent and public sources, which should be submitted on schedule in March 2001.

21. On 24 January, pursuant to the request of the members of the Security Council, the President met with representatives of the countries named in the interim report to urge them to cooperate with the Panel. The meeting was conducted in a cordial atmosphere. The President reported their comments and other feedback on the interim report of the Panel to the members of the Council during informal consultations held on 29 January. The Security Council will review this matter upon the submission of the final report of the Panel in March 2001.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

22. **Arms embargo**. Following the signing at Algiers on 12 December 2000 of the Agreement to formally end the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, a member of the Council introduced a draft resolution proposing the lifting of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1298 (2000). Informal consultations were scheduled on 5 January to allow the new members of the Security Council to be briefed on the proposal and to give them an opportunity to put across their views on the matter. The new members of the Council, while acknowledging progress made by Eritrea and Ethiopia to resolve their dispute, particularly the signing of the Algiers Agreement, nevertheless raised questions about the timing of the draft resolution. Following further consultations on 10 January, the members of the Council agreed to defer action on the draft resolution to lift the arms embargo on Eritrea and Ethiopia to allow time to hold further consultations with a view to building greater consensus on the draft resolution. On 18 January, the members of the Council were informed by the sponsor of the draft resolution of its decision not to pursue the matter in view of the doubts that some members of the Council continued to have about the advisability of the proposed course of action.

23. **Deployment of UNMEE**. On 17 January, members of the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the political and humanitarian situation in Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the status of deployment of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). He updated the members of the Council on

the developments since the issuance of the progress report of the Secretary-General (S/2001/45). He also drew the attention of the Council members to several areas of concern addressed in the progress report, including the continuing impediments to the establishment of direct air links between Asmara and Addis Ababa, which affected the mobility of UNMEE, and the conclusion of the status-of-forces agreement. Noting these and other concerns that could affect the smooth deployment of UNMEE, members of the Council agreed that the President should request separate meetings with the Permanent Representatives of Eritrea and Ethiopia to draw their attention to the views and concerns of the members of the Council.

24. In a press statement made on behalf of the members of the Council, the President urged both parties to conclude the status-of-forces agreements with the United Nations as soon as possible. He also expressed concern over the issue of demining, which was crucial for the deployment of UNMEE, the safety of the population and the general rehabilitation of both countries, and called upon both sides to cooperate with UNMEE in identifying suitable accommodation sites for Mission personnel. The President further called for the deployment of UNMEE to proceed on schedule. On 17 January, as requested by members of the Council, the President met with the Permanent Representatives of Eritrea and Ethiopia to convey to them the views and concerns of the Council members with regard to the deployment of UNMEE. The President briefed the members of the Council on the two meetings on 18 January.

Guinea: attacks along the borders with Sierra Leone and Liberia

25. On 9 January, at the request of a member of the Security Council, the members heard a briefing by the Secretariat on the humanitarian situation along the Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberian borders. The members of the Council were privileged by the appearance of the newly appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers. Giving his first briefing to the Security Council, the High Commissioner informed the members of the Council of the assistance provided by UNHCR to the 375,000 Sierra Leonean and 125,000 Liberian refugees in Guinea as a consequence of the fighting along the borders of the three West African countries.

26. Following the briefing, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of the members of the Council, in which he indicated that members of the Council shared the deep concern expressed by the High Commissioner about the plight of refugees in the region, and that they expressed their full support for his efforts to ameliorate the situation, and the efforts of OAU and ECOWAS. The President further conveyed the appreciation of the Council members for the generosity of the Government and people of Guinea in hosting the large number of refugees from the region and asked for their continued assistance to ensure the safety and security of the refugees and all United Nations personnel in view of reports regarding the growing resentment of the population.

Sierra Leone

27. The Security Council dealt with four different aspects of the Sierra Leone issue during the period under review. First, it reviewed the implementation of measures to curb the trade in Sierra Leone rough diamonds. Second, it received a briefing from the Secretariat on contacts between UNAMSIL and the rebel groups. Third, it considered the report of the Panel of Experts on Sierra Leone Diamonds and Arms. Fourth, the Council considered further the proposal to establish a special court for Sierra Leone.

28. **Diamond embargo**. On 5 January, pursuant to resolution 1306 (2000), the members of the Council held informal consultations to conduct the second six-monthly review of the implementation of the measures imposed under paragraph 1 of the resolution (the prohibition of direct or indirect import of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone) and to consider if further measures would be necessary. The first review was conducted on 15 September 2000.

29. Following the second review, the President made a statement to the press, in which he indicated that the members of the Council welcomed the progress reported by Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury of Bangladesh, Chairman of the sanctions Committee, on the implementation of the measures; in particular, they welcomed the establishment of the official certification scheme by the Government of Sierra Leone as well as the measures taken by ECOWAS. The members of the Council also noted that all Member States had a binding obligation to implement and enforce the measures imposed by resolution 1306 (2000), called on Member States to act quickly to do so

and underlined the importance of countries through whose territory illicit diamonds might pass taking the necessary steps. The members of the Council had noted that the Panel of Experts on Sierra Leone Diamonds and Arms, whose report was then under consideration by the sanctions Committee, had reported widespread violations of the diamond embargo on Sierra Leone; they expressed their intention to hold an open discussion on the report's findings and recommendations at an early date after its consideration by the Committee and also expressed their intention to take follow-up action. The Council members also reaffirmed their intention to conduct further such reviews every six months after the date of adoption of resolution 1306 (2000), and to consider at those times any further measures that might be necessary.

30. **UNAMSIL**. At the request of a member of the Security Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, updated Council members at informal consultations on 9 January on developments in the implementation of the Abuja Agreement of 10 November 2000, the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration process and the latest contacts between RUF and the UNAMSIL Force Commander, Lieutenant General Daniel Ishmael Opande (Kenya). The Under-Secretary-General also briefed the members of the Council on steps taken by the United Nations to support the efforts of ECOWAS in the region. Following the briefing, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of the members of Council to express the concern of the members about the continued attacks by RUF on the border with Guinea. The members of the Council also reaffirmed the statement by the President of 21 December 2000 (S/PRST/2000/41) and reiterated their call on all States, particularly Liberia, to abide by the views expressed in that statement and for the early implementation of the Abuja Agreement.

31. **Report of Panel of Experts on Sierra Leone Diamonds and Arms**. The Panel was established under resolution 1306 (2000) to collect information on possible violations of the arms embargo imposed under paragraph 2 of resolution 1171 (1998) and the link between the trade in diamonds and the trade in arms and related materiel, as well as the inadequacy of the air traffic control systems of the West African region. The Panel submitted its report (S/2000/1195) to the sanctions Committee on 14 December 2000. In accordance with the understanding reached in informal consultations, the report was sent to the Committee for its consideration before formal presentation. Following the completion of the consideration of the report by the Committee, the Chairman requested a formal meeting to present the report to the Council. At its 4264th meeting, on 25 January, the Council held an open debate whereat Ambassador Chowdhury of Bangladesh formally presented the report, in the presence of the distinguished members of the Panel led by Martin Chungong Ayafor (Cameroon).

32. Apart from members of the Council, the meeting also allowed countries that had been named in the Panel's report or had a special interest in the issue to express their views on the report. Ten Member States were invited by the Council to participate in the debate, namely, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Sweden (on behalf of the States members of the European Union), Canada, Guinea, Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium and the Niger. The Permanent Observer of Switzerland was also invited to take part in the open debate. At informal consultations held prior to the public meeting on the report, the members of the Security Council took note of information from Mali, in its capacity as Chairman of ECOWAS, that ECOWAS would be dispatching a ministerial delegation to meet with the Council to discuss the report and other issues concerning its region.

33. **Special court**. Members of the Security Council considered a letter from the Secretary-General to the President (S/2001/40) in response to views and proposals of the members on the establishment of the special court for Sierra Leone. In his reply (S/2001/95), the President conveyed the views of the members of the Council on various proposals suggested by the Secretary-General.

Somalia

34. Pursuant to the request of the Security Council made in the statement of its President of 27 May 1999 (S/PRST/1999/16), the Secretary-General submitted a report on the situation in Somalia on 19 December 2000 (S/2000/1211), which covered events since his previous report, of 16 August 1999 (S/1999/882). The Council devoted one day, 11 January, to the situation in Somalia. In the morning, it held a meeting in private with the Prime Minister, which represented the first time that the Council had met a leader of the transitional government. In the afternoon, the members

of the Council met in informal consultations to hear a briefing by the Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), David Stephen.

35. **Meeting with Mr. Galaydh**. At its 4254th meeting, held in private on 11 January, the Security Council heard a briefing by the Prime Minister of the Transitional National Government, Ali Khalif Galaydh, on developments in Somalia, and engaged him in an interactive discussion. He briefed the Council on the nation-building efforts of the Government, detailing its achievements and obstacles. He also outlined the types of assistance required from the United Nations and the international community to broaden and consolidate the peace process and the rebuilding effort in Somalia. Acknowledging that the biggest challenge facing the Transitional National Government was the demobilization and reintegration of the militias, he highlighted the withdrawal of foreign troops from the country, the establishment of a Trust Fund and the despatch of a peace-building mission to Somalia as areas that required urgent attention.

36. The discussion focused on the timing for the establishment of a United Nations peace-building mission based in Somalia and the need for the Transitional National Government to continue with its efforts to engage those factions that still remained outside of the Arta peace process. Several members of the Council expressed the view that the Council could not wait for perfect security guarantees before deploying a peace-building mission, while others counselled greater caution. Council members that spoke also supported the Arta process, encouraged the Transitional National Government to step up its peacemaking and peace-building efforts, and expressed concern about reports of interference by neighbouring States.

37. **Briefing by David Stephen**. The Representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report of the Secretary-General and gave a candid assessment of the latest developments in Somalia and prospects of the Arta process. On the latter, he assessed that the process could provide a framework for a future political structure in Somalia. Following consultations, the Council convened a formal meeting (4255th meeting) to adopt a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/1), in which it, inter alia, welcomed and supported the outcome of the Arta peace conference and the establishment of the Transitional National Government; strongly urged all political groups in the country to engage in peaceful and constructive dialogue with the Transitional National Government in order to promote national reconciliation and facilitate the democratic elections scheduled for 2003; insisted that all States should refrain from any military intervention in the internal situation in Somalia and that the territory of Somalia should not be used to undermine stability in the subregion; and invited the Secretary-General to prepare a proposal for a peace-building mission for Somalia.

Asia

East Timor

38. The mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), which was scheduled to expire on 31 January 2001 pursuant to resolution 1272 (1999), was considered by the Security Council during the period under review. In this connection, the Council organized a comprehensive future-oriented and forward-looking open debate on East Timor on 26 January (4265th meeting) to forge a collective vision for the future of East Timor, both in the transition towards independence and in the post-independence phase. The report of the Secretary-General (S/2001/42) formed the basis of the discussion on the role of the international community in helping East Timor achieve that vision.

39. For this purpose, the Council not only invited the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Transitional Administrator of East Timor, Sergio Vieira de Mello (Brazil), to provide a briefing to the Council at the meeting, but also invited representatives from key developmental agencies to hear their views on East Timor. The Council heard briefings by the Administrator of UNDP, Mark Malloch Brown, the Country Director for East Timor, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands of the World Bank, Klaus Rohland, and an Adviser in the Asia and Pacific Department of IMF, Luis Valdivieso. The Council also benefited from the perspectives on the situation in East Timor of the President of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Harri Holkeri, and the member of the Transitional Cabinet of East Timor responsible for foreign affairs, Jose Ramos-Horta. Mr. Ramos-Horta was the first East Timorese leader to address the Council since the establishment of UNTAET. His invitation signalled the importance the Council

attached to the "Timorisation" process of the administration of the territory. Twenty-six other speakers took part in the exchange of views.

40. During the debate, UNTAET was widely recognized as one of the most successful United Nations peacekeeping operations, and strong support was expressed for the extension of its mandate. Nevertheless, many speakers emphasized that huge challenges remained for East Timor. The Special Representative stated realistically that much still remained to be done and that East Timor would need ongoing commitment for many years by the international community to support the structure of the embryonic Government of East Timor. The Administrator of UNDP pointed out that East Timor needed the support of the international community for tomorrow even more than today. Similarly, the representative of the World Bank noted the need to develop a clear and structured plan for the transition and post-independence mandate. The representative of IMF explained in detail how a patient, consultative process to develop a long-term, sensible and sustainable financial system and process would be the best way forward. The President of the General Assembly put across strongly that the United Nations could not afford to exit East Timor prematurely or without a well-prepared strategy. He added that it would be unrealistic and even irresponsible to expect or plan a quick pullout. Mr. Ramos-Horta also warned against a premature withdrawal of United Nations forces.

41. Almost all representatives who spoke recognized that a United Nations presence would be needed in East Timor even after independence and that planning should start as soon as possible in close consultation with the East Timorese people. Some delegations pledged their readiness to continue to remain in East Timor. Most delegations welcomed the innovative "Timorisation" process, although some pointed that the mere delegation of authority was not sufficient. The East Timorese should be given the necessary tools and training to exercise that authority. Most noted the political calendar proposed by the East Timorese, some expressing concern that the tight timetable might require some flexibility. References were made to the refugee situation in West Timor, and some delegations highlighted the need for international assistance to help Indonesia resolve the situation. Justice and reconciliation were seen as essential prerequisites for East Timor's future, both in terms of bringing together East Timorese of different political persuasions and in terms of East Timor's relationship with its neighbours.

42. Following further consultations on the matter and taking into account the views expressed during the open debate at its 4265th meeting as well as the views of troop-contributing countries made known at the meeting chaired by the President on 22 January, the Security Council adopted resolution 1338 (2001) unanimously at its 4268th meeting, on 31 January, extending the current mandate of UNTAET until 31 January 2002 while urging further measures to delegate authority to the East Timorese people as an essential part of the transition to independence. The Council also stressed the need for a substantial international presence in East Timor after independence and requested the Secretary-General to make detailed recommendations on this for the consideration of the Council.

Middle East

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

43. In connection with the issue of the renewal of the mandate of UNIFIL which was due to expire on 31 January 2001, the members of the Security Council met in informal consultations on 29 January to review developments in Lebanon and to consider the recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2001/66). Prior to their consideration of the issue, the members of the Council received an update on the situation in southern Lebanon after the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

44. During the ensuing discussion, members of the Council acknowledged the success of UNIFIL in fulfilling its mandate of verifying the withdrawal of Israel and reaffirmed their support for the continuing role that UNIFIL could play in the maintenance of international peace and security and the recommendation of the Secretary-General that its mandate be extended by a further period of six months, until 31 July 2001. Members, however, stressed the need for Lebanon to exert full and effective control over southern Lebanon. Council members also called for the international community to continue to provide assistance to the Government of Lebanon in mine clearance. Another priority area highlighted by the

Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the Security Council was the repatriation of Lebanese prisoners still in Israel's custody. While Council members supported the recommendation of the Secretary-General that by 31 July 2001 the strength of the military personnel should be returned to the operational level prior to its augmentation following the withdrawal of Israel from the area in May 2000, they nevertheless cautioned that this should be done gradually, taking into account the views of the Government of Lebanon and the troop-contributing countries. (It is significant to note that Council members met the troop-contributing countries twice, before and after the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General, to discuss the matter.) The members of the Council also supported the proposal of the Secretary-General to maintain a combination of military observers and military personnel in view of the continuing volatile situation, with a view to further reconfiguration in the future.

45. At its 4267th meeting, on 30 January, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1337 (2001), by which it extended the mandate of UNIFIL by six months, until 31 July 2001. The Secretary-General was also requested to submit a detailed report on reconfiguration plans and on the tasks that could be carried out by the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) by 30 April 2001. On the basis of that report, the Council would review the situation by early May 2001 and consider any appropriate steps.

Europe

Prevlaka, Croatia

46. The members of the Security Council held informal consultations on 12 January to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Prevlaka, Croatia (S/2000/1251) and his recommendation regarding the renewal of the mandate of UNMOP. During the consultations, the members of the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the situation in Prevlaka and were also briefed by the President on the views of the troop-contributing countries expressed during the meeting held on 9 January. The Assistant Secretary-General informed the members of the Council that the situation on the ground in Prevlaka remained calm. Although UNMOP personnel maintained their positions in the demilitarized zones and United Nations-controlled zones, violations in the United Nations-controlled zones continued. While talks to resolve the dispute had not been resumed, both parties had indicated their willingness to settle their differences through negotiations.

47. At its 4256th meeting, on 12 January, the Security Council adopted resolution 1335 (2001), by which it extended the mandate of UNMOP by a further six months, until 15 July 2001. The Secretary-General was nevertheless requested to report to the Council by 15 April 2001 on the steps taken by both parties to resume talks on the dispute and to develop confidence-building measures with a view to, inter alia, facilitating the freedom of movement of the civilian population.

Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

48. The developments in Kosovo and the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) were reviewed at a public meeting on 18 January. Clashes between the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and ethnic Albanian extremists in southern Serbia, near the Ground Safety Zone in Presevo Valley, later in the month, however, compelled the members of the Council to discuss the situation again in informal consultations on 30 January.

49. **Open meeting.** At its 4258th meeting, on 18 January, at which the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, S. Jayakumar presided, the Security Council received a briefing on the latest developments in Kosovo and the activities of UNMIK from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guehenno. Apart from the members of the Security Council, the representatives of Sweden (on behalf of the States members of the European Union and associated European States) and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were also invited to participate in the meeting. Commencing with a tribute to the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNMIK, Bernard Kouchner (France), the Under-Secretary-General concluded that, over the last 18 months, UNMIK had made impressive progress in the implementation of its mandate under resolution 1244 (1999). He updated the Council on the progress made by UNMIK in establishing joint interim administrative institutions, preparing for Kosovo-wide elections, strengthening civil administration and rule of law and economic reconstruction. Other issues he touched upon included the return of Kosovo Albanian detainees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the security of United Nations personnel and minority

communities in Kosovo, the situation in the Presevo Valley and the problem of depleted uranium. The Under-Secretary-General also outlined the future priorities for UNMIK, namely, developing a legal framework for provisional self-government in Kosovo, in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999), developing effective law enforcement institutions and strengthening dialogue with the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. He also informed the Council that UNMIK would establish a liaison office in Belgrade to facilitate its dialogue with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

50. During the discussion, several members of the Security Council commended the efforts of Mr. Kouchner and expressed support for the work of his successor, Hans Haekkerup (Denmark). Some members, however, negatively assessed the work of Mr. Kouchner. A few speakers made reference to the new political situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the positive implications it had for Kosovo. Other issues highlighted were the problem of depleted uranium and its impact on the health of the local population and United Nations personnel in Kosovo, the persistence of inter-ethnic violence in Kosovo and the growing tensions in the Presevo Valley in southern Serbia. A number of speakers called for better protection of minorities in Kosovo and the strengthening of the rule of law in Kosovo. Others placed emphasis on the need for progress in the dialogue between UNMIK and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, particularly on the return of detainees and missing persons, dialogue between Kosovo Albanians and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the return and protection of Kosovo Serbs, the development of administrative structures and the economic development and reconstruction of Kosovo.

51. **Presevo Valley.** Clashes between forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and ethnic Albanian extremists in southern Serbia, which led to the death of a Yugoslav soldier on 26 January 2001, instigated the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to write to the Security Council on 27 January and to call upon the Council to convene a meeting to discuss the issue. The matter was taken up at the informal consultations of the members of the Council on 30 January.

52. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed Council members on the circumstances leading to the tension based on information received from KFOR and UNHCR, noting that the incident occurred in an area outside UNMIK jurisdiction. He said that over the period from 18 to 28 January 2001 there was a notable increase in small-scale attacks on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia forces by elements of the Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac (UCPMB) and a splinter group (the ethnic Albanian armed groups). There were reports of 18 attacks on Federal Republic of Yugoslavia forces, the majority comprising sniping and mortar attacks and occurring in the central and northern parts of the Ground Safety Zone. The fighting created a flow of internally displaced persons into Kosovo, but a major influx was not expected. The Assistant Secretary-General added that KFOR continued to conduct proactive operations to interdict and prevent armed groups from crossing into the Ground Safety Zone. He noted, however, that tension in the area was rising.

53. During the discussion, members of the Council noted that the problem could only be resolved through a political solution. There was a need for ethnic Albanians to be included in the local administration. The members of the Council also noted the restraint shown by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the positive steps it had taken to prevent escalation and the confidence-building measures it had put into place. Apart from the tension in southern Serbia, one member also alerted the members of the Council to the reports of the killing of an ethnic Albanian in a grenade attack by Serbs in Mitrovica on 29 January 2001. Concerns were also expressed about that incident.

54. At the conclusion of the consultations, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of the members of the Council, in which the Council members strongly condemned the attacks by ethnic Albanian extremist groups, leading to the killing of a soldier from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and stressed the need for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. The President also recalled the call made in its presidential statement of 19 December 2000 for the immediate and complete cessation of violence, the dissolution of ethnic Albanian extremist groups and the immediate withdrawal from the Ground Safety Zone of all non-residents engaged in extremist activities. Welcoming the commitment of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to work towards a peaceful settlement, based on democratic principles,

and to respect the provisions of resolution 1244 (1999) and the military technical agreement, the members of the Council also called on ethnic Albanian leaders in southern Serbia to work with the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to achieve a peaceful settlement. Lastly, the President informed the press that members of the Council welcomed the measures taken by KFOR and called on KFOR to continue to make all necessary efforts to address the problem. The members of the Council said that they would continue to follow the situation closely.

Georgia

55. In connection with the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), which was scheduled to expire on 31 January 2001 in accordance with resolution 1311 (2000), the Security Council undertook a review of the recent developments in Abkhazia, Georgia, based on the report of the Secretary-General (S/2000/59). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Dieter Boden (Germany), briefed the members of the Council in informal consultations on 30 January. He said that UNOMIG, in close cooperation with the peacekeeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), had succeeded in preventing large-scale activities in an increasingly complicated situation in Abkhazia. Nevertheless, the situation remained volatile. Thirty people had been killed in the previous six months. Criminality and lawlessness, and hostage-taking, continued. UNOMIG followed up with the Abkhaz leadership on violations of the Moscow Agreement committed by the Abkhaz side. He also noted that the peace process was advancing slowly, and reported some positive developments. The resumption of meetings of the Coordinating Council and the Working Groups under it would revitalize the United Nations-led peace process. In November 2000, UNOMIG was able to carry out a major assessment mission in the Gali district with the support of OSCE, ICRC and the Council of Europe, which was aimed at improving the conditions of the internally displaced persons there. The report of the joint assessment mission would facilitate the safe return of internally displaced persons, but this would depend on the cooperation of both sides. He also reported that both Georgia and the Abkhaz had agreed in writing to attend the third meeting on confidence-building measures at Yalta, Ukraine, which would be held on 15 and 16 March 2001.

56. During the discussion, a number of Council members expressed disappointment at the lack of substantive progress towards a settlement of the issue of the status of Abkhazia within Georgia, which they stressed was key to the resolution of the conflict. Council members emphasized the importance of the early submission by the Special Representative of the draft paper on the distribution of competencies between Tbilisi and Sukhumi. They hoped for greater progress and flexibility on the part of the two parties and called on the group of Friends of the Secretary-General to help encourage the parties to this end. One member of the Council noted, however, that the issue of distribution of competencies must first of all be a matter of discussion between the two parties and should not be imposed on them. It was also stressed that this process should not foreclose other initiatives or parallel tracks for resolving the conflict. Council members also welcomed the holding of the third meeting on confidence-building measures and expressed their appreciation to Ukraine for its leadership. Nevertheless, several members expressed concern over the problem of criminality and lawlessness, the situation with regard to internally displaced persons, and the safety and security of peacekeepers in Abkhazia.

57. At its 4269th meeting, on 31 January, before voting on the draft resolution recommending the extension of the mandate of UNOMIG, the Security Council heard a statement by the Permanent Representative of Georgia, in which he expressed concern over the inclusion in the operative part of the draft resolution of a reference to the draft protocol on the return of refugees to the Gali region and the draft agreement on peace and guarantees for the prevention and for the non-resumption of hostilities. The representative of Georgia indicated that the reference to the draft protocol and draft agreement might jeopardize the upcoming meeting in Yalta and put the entire peace process on hold, and suggested that it would set a dangerous precedent from the standpoint of international law.

58. The Security Council proceeded to adopt unanimously resolution 1339 (2001), by which it extended the mandate of UNOMIG to 31 July 2001, and requested the Secretary-General, within three months, to brief the Security Council on the progress of the political settlement, including the status of the draft paper on the distribution of competencies between

Tbilisi and Sukhumi which the Special Representative intended to submit to the parties.

Thematic issues: enhancing the effectiveness of the Security Council

Strengthening cooperation with troop-contributing countries

59. At the initiative of the Singapore Presidency, the Security Council organized an open debate on 16 January to hear the views of the troop-contributing countries with a view to strengthening cooperation between them and the Security Council and the Secretariat. To help Council members and troop contributors prepare for the debate, the Singapore delegation prepared and circulated a background paper (S/2001/21). As a signal of the importance the Security Council attached to the views and proposals of the troop-contributing countries, Council members agreed to waive their right to speak before non-members of the Council. At the morning session of the 4257th meeting, on 16 January, which was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, the Council heard statements made by representatives of the troop-contributing countries, while the members of the Council took the floor in the afternoon. This format allowed the Council members to respond to or comment on the views expressed and suggestions made by the troop contributors.

60. Twenty-one troop-contributing countries participated in the debate. In its capacity as the European Union Presidency, Sweden spoke on behalf of the European Union and other associated European States. Among the key issues raised by the troop contributors during the course of the debate were:

(a) The working model of the United Nations was not a triangular relationship between the troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat but a linear relationship with the Secretariat in the middle;

(b) Consultations were not a two-way street, and not during all stages of deliberations on a peacekeeping operation especially during the formulation of mandates. Reference was made to Article 44 of the Charter of the United Nations, which one Member State (United Kingdom) construed to mean that troop contributors should be invited to participate in the decisions of the Security Council concerning the deployment of contingents of those Members' armed forces;

(c) The meetings with the troop-contributing countries were not functioning well. There was no real dialogue or cooperation displayed during the meetings;

(d) There were no institutionalized consultative mechanisms. Specifically, there was no sign of any move forward by the Security Council to establish ad hoc subsidiary organs under Article 29 of the Charter. The troop contributors also wanted troop-contributing countries to be included in the subsidiary organs. Specific proposals included a troop contributors committee or "core group" for each peacekeeping operation, and reviving the Military Staff Committee with the inclusion of troop-contributing countries to look at peacekeeping operations;

(e) A lack of mutual trust between troop-contributing countries and the Security Council and the Secretariat;

(f) Some troop contributors also said that the core problem was the unwillingness of the Security Council members to lead by example and be the first in line to provide troops to the United Nations peacekeeping operations that they had mandated.

61. Following the meeting, the President proposed a draft statement of the President to signal the Council's recognition of the important role played by troop contributing countries in a core activity of the Council, its endorsement of the new spirit of partnership among the Council, the Secretariat and the troop contributors and its commitment to improving the implementation of existing measures to enhance cooperation and consultation between the Council and troop-contributing countries, as well as examining the proposals made by the troop contributors during the debate. At its 4270th meeting, on 31 January, the Security Council adopted the statement of the President (S/PRST/2001/3), in which it stated its recognition of the need for a transparent three-way relationship between the Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries that would foster a new spirit of partnership, cooperation and confidence. To address both generic peacekeeping issues relevant to the responsibilities of the Council and technical aspects of individual peacekeeping operations, the Council decided to establish a working group on United Nations peacekeeping operations. As a first step, the Working Group was tasked to undertake an in-depth

consideration of all proposals made in the open debate on this issue held at the 4257th meeting. The Working Group was also instructed to report to the Council by 30 April 2001.

HIV/AIDS

62. At the request of a member of the Security Council, the Council convened a public meeting on 19 January to continue its discussion of HIV/AIDS as a threat to international peace and security, and to review the implementation of resolution 1308 (2000). The 4259th meeting was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore. It was also graced by the participation of Norway's Minister for International Development, Anne Sydnes. At the outset of the meeting, the Council received briefings from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, and the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Peter Piot. The Under-Secretary-General acknowledged that peacekeepers ran the risk of transmitting or contracting HIV, but the lack of reliable data rendered it difficult to quantify the extent of the risk. He also gave a comprehensive account of the measures taken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to implement resolution 1308 (2000) and to mitigate the risks that peacekeepers presented or were exposed to. These included heightening awareness of the problem among peacekeepers and training in preventive measures that was carried out by the Department's Training and Evaluation Service and the Medical Support Unit.

63. The Executive Director of UNAIDS said that AIDS was now understood as a fundamental issue of human security that exacerbated poverty and vulnerability in many countries, and he reported a marked increase in the resolve to tackle the AIDS epidemic since the Council last debated the issue on 17 July 2000. He also updated the Council on the progress of his efforts to intensify the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa, to hold regular consultations with the Security Council, to intensify information flow on international responses to the epidemic and to make specific plans to address the issue in emergency and uniformed services. Finally, while acknowledging that the global response to AIDS had gathered momentum in 2000, he called for real commitments, in the context of the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS to be held in June 2001, in the form of financial contributions, leadership and participation in decision-making.

64. Apart from members of the Council, five States Members of the United Nations were invited to participate in the meeting. With few exceptions, the representatives who spoke on this issue paid tribute to the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNAIDS and applauded the memorandum of understanding recently signed by the two bodies. The majority of the speakers also recognized the importance of the issue of HIV/AIDS and stressed the relevance of the issue to the work of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security. Nevertheless, one non-member reminded the Council that, owing to the division of functions and responsibilities of the different organs of the United Nations as prescribed by its Charter, the competency of the Council in the area of HIV/AIDS was limited. Another speaker challenged the existence of an organic link between conflict and AIDS and questioned the imputation that peacekeepers were either necessarily at risk or carriers of AIDS. The speaker further suggested that if the Security Council truly believed that AIDS constituted a threat to international peace and security, it should allow countries to invoke article 73 of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to enable them to obtain cheaper generic alternatives of medicines for AIDS patients from countries that are currently prevented under the TRIPS Agreement from exporting such products.

General issues relating to sanctions

65. In April 2000 the Security Council, pursuant to a note by the President (S/2000/319), established a working group under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury to develop general recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of sanctions. The working group was to have reported to the Security Council by 30 November 2000 but the deadline was extended to the end of January 2001. As an exceptional measure, the working group in January 2001 was allowed to comprise 20 members (the current 15 Council members as in January 2001 and the five members whose term expired at the end of December 2000). At the informal consultations held on 31 January, the members of the Council were briefed by the Chairman of the Working Group on the progress of its work. The Chairman noted that while considerable

progress had been made, there were four major outstanding issues, namely majority voting in the sanctions committees, time limits for and the lifting of sanctions, the establishment of a permanent monitoring mechanism and the unintended impact of sanctions on third States. A further meeting of the Working Group was scheduled later on the same day after which its Chairman would report to the President and to the members of the Council.

Other matters

Election of bureaux of sanctions committees

66. Following consultations with the members of the Council on the allocation of the chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of the sanctions committees, on 4 January, the President reported to the Council that a consensus had been reached on such allocation. The bureaux of the sanctions committees were elected for a term ending on 31 December 2001 as follows:

(a) Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait: Chairman Ole Peter Kolby (Norway) and Vice-Chairmen Mauritius and Ukraine;

(b) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 748 (1992) concerning the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya: Chairman Valeri P. Kuchynski (Ukraine) and Vice-Chairmen Bangladesh and Jamaica;

(c) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia: Chairman Saïd Ben Mustapha (Tunisia) and Vice-Chairmen Jamaica and Norway;

(d) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola: Chairman Richard Ryan (Ireland) and Vice-Chairmen Colombia and Singapore;

(e) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) concerning Rwanda: Chairman Moctar Ouane (Mali) and Vice-Chairmen Ireland and Tunisia;

(f) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) concerning Liberia: Chairman Kishore Mahbubani (Singapore) and Vice-Chairmen Ireland and Mauritius;

(g) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone: Chairman Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh) and Vice-Chairmen Mali and Singapore;

(h) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1160 (1998): Chairman M. Patricia Durrant (Jamaica) and Vice-Chairmen Norway and Tunisia;

(i) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Afghanistan: Chairman Alfonso Valdivieso (Colombia) and Vice-Chairmen Mali and Ukraine;

(j) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1298 (2000) concerning the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia: Chairman Anund Priyay Neewoor (Mauritius) and Vice-Chairmen Colombia and Tunisia.

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

67. At its 4260th meeting, on 19 January, the Council considered a letter from the Secretary-General regarding nominations received for permanent judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (S/2001/61). The Council agreed on the text of a reply by the President to the Secretary-General informing him of the decision to extend the deadline for the nomination of judges until 31 January 2001 (S/2001/63).

68. Members of the Council also considered a letter from the Secretary-General (S/2001/47) seeking the President's views on the appointment of Mohammed El Habib Fassi Fihri as a replacement judge on the Tribunal. In his reply (S/2001/48), the President informed the Secretary-General that, after consultations with the members, he supported the Secretary-General's intention to appoint Mr. Fassi Fihri.

Meeting with the Chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

69. On 29 January, the Security Council held a meeting in private to hear a briefing by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, Mircea Geoana, in his capacity as the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE. The meeting was held in response to a request of 15 January from the Permanent Mission of Romania for a meeting between the OSCE Chairman and the Council. In accordance with the understanding reached in prior consultations, the Council invited other States

Members of the United Nations to observe the meeting. In his statement, the Minister briefed the Council on the cooperation between the United Nations and OSCE in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. He also offered his views on how the cooperation between the United Nations and OSCE could be further strengthened. His proposals included the establishment of an information exchange mechanism on potential crises and lessons learned from common field missions; conduct of periodic joint assessments on areas of mutual interest and participation in each others' meetings on topics of common concern.

70. The briefing was followed by an interactive discussion with members of the Council. The latter paid tribute to the role of OSCE in its efforts to resolve conflicts in Europe, in particular Kosovo; Abkhazia, Georgia; Nagorny-Karabakh; Croatia (Prevlaka); Bosnia and Herzegovina; and the Presevo Valley. Council members also noted the offer made by the Minister to share the experience of OSCE, particularly in preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution, with other regional organizations, and acknowledged the considerable contributions that OSCE could make to other regional organizations, especially in Africa.

Wrap-up

71. On the last day of January, the members of the Security Council reviewed the work and activities of the Council during the month to consider critically their impact on the issues on the agenda of the Council. The members of the Council also had a rich exchange of views on the working methods of the Security Council. Many interesting ideas were put across, particularly in the following areas:

(a) Strengthening cooperation with the troop-contributing countries;

(b) Transparency of the work of the Council;

(c) Effectiveness of the communication methods of the Council;

(d) Quality of briefings given by the Secretariat;

(e) Efficiency and quality of meetings of the Council;

(f) Cooperation with regional organizations and other bodies;

(g) Missions of the Security Council;

(h) Thematic debates.